

1 January 2020 ANKC Lure Coursing Rules Revision **Explanatory Statement**

This Explanatory Statement has been put together to assist officials and triallers to understand the reasoning for major changes made to the Lure Coursing Rule Book and to provide advice about transitional arrangements. Minor editorial amendments for clarity that do not change the meaning of the provisions are not covered in this Statement.

This document is for information and education purposes only. The official Lure Coursing Rule Book of the ANKC prevails in the event of any dispute.

All officials and triallers should read the new Lure Coursing Rule Book completely and carefully. Some restructuring of the Rule Book has occurred. This means that a provision may still be in the rules, but in a different place than it was previously. If you have questions that are not covered in this document, please approach your state/territory representative on the ANKC Lure Coursing Committee.

Section 1 - Introduction

What has changed?

A reference to the Australian National Kennel Council has been included in sub-section 1.1.

Why has it changed?

This change was made to put it beyond doubt that reference to a member body means reference to an ANKC member body.

Section 2 – Decisions

What has changed?

Gender inclusive language is now used throughout the Rule Book. This first change occurs at section 2.4 and is reflected throughout the document.

Why has it changed?

This change was made in the interests of modernisation and accessibility for the sport.

Section 3 – Purpose, Field, Course Design and Equipment

What has changed?

The old Purpose statement has been split to separately cover:

- purpose,
- fields,
- course design, and
- equipment.

Why has it changed?

Purpose: The purpose statement has been updated to ensure that all references to the sport refer to “lure coursing” rather than “coursing” and to make it clear that the sport is a test of instinct to work by sight using artificial lures only. Use of the term “lure coursing” rather than just “coursing” is also reflected throughout the Rule Book. This has been done to proof the sport against public misinformation about the nature of the sport.

Field: The requirements for the field have been defined in more detail, bringing in more safety considerations and a minimum size.

Course Design: The requirements for course design have been defined in more detail to make it clearer what is required to run a trial at internationally benchmarked standards and to update language to ensure those requirements can be enforced (for example, course length). The amendments clarify that an affiliate may assign course design responsibilities at its discretion.

Equipment: The requirements for equipment have been defined in more detail to make affiliates responsible for ensuring that equipment is fit for purpose, and organising back up equipment in the case of equipment failure. The requirements have also been updated to specify exactly what kind of lure is permitted on the line.

Section 4 – Lure Coursing Sanctioned Events

What has changed?

This section has been updated to define Lure Coursing tests and trials and to reflect the new title stream. The new language of “Sanctioned Event” is now reflected throughout the Rule Book. This section also reflects the decision by the Committee to rationalise the age threshold for participation in the sport to 15 months for all dogs and to drop the pass mark for all classes.

Why has it changed?

The change to the term “Sanctioned Event” recognises that tests occur across both the Sighthound and CA stream and that affiliate events may consist of tests only, trials only or trials and tests.

The change to the age threshold was made to protect dogs whose growth plates and musculature are still developing. The Committee notes that dogs of all breeds have varying development schedules and that all owners should consider the development schedule of their specific breed or associate before starting to compete in lure coursing.

The pass mark has been dropped to 100/200 for all classes. This does not mean that dogs now need to achieve less to pass. It was done following feedback from international and Australian judges that the old scoring system did not provide enough range with which to distinguish top quality, above average and average performance. Dogs will still be required to show the same quality of performance as they did previously to qualify for a pass in their class.

Section 5 – Eligibility for Dogs

What has changed?

The Junior Courser test has been changed to make it pass/fail rather than scored like the other classes.

The rules have been updated to clarify that dogs who do not have four sound legs are ineligible to participate.

The rules have been updated to clarify which Lure Coursing titles entitle a dog to apply for a Dual Champion title.

Why has it changed?

The JC was amended to bring the JC into line with other entry level instinct tests in other ANKC dog sports. Rather than scoring, the judge will decide on a pass or fail against the five criteria. The JC remains a necessary pre-qualification for all dogs competing in the higher lure coursing classes.

Due to the physical demands on a lure coursing dog, and the risk of injury to a dog's remaining limbs, dogs without 4 sound limbs are not eligible to compete. This decision is consistent with international lure coursing policies/regulations.

In line with other dog sports, the award of a Dual Champion title will only be made to dogs who have demonstrated top performance at the highest level of the sport. This means dogs who demonstrate the ability to compete with, and best, other dogs in the Open or Veteran streams where they must run cleanly with other dogs. This clarification also makes the award of a Dual Champion title in the sport consistent with the decision not to make provision for a CA Champion title.

What has not changed?

No changes to eligible breeds for the Sighthound stream have been made.

Why was it not changed?

Submissions were received to add the Peruvian Hairless and Portuguese Podengos to the Sighthound stream. Peruvian Hairless had been considered by the ANKC Board prior to the Rules Revision meeting and the Board moved the breed to Group 7. Noting that the Lure Coursing Committee reports to the Board, the Lure Coursing Committee therefore did not consider adding Peruvian Hairless to the Sighthound stream. The motion to include Portuguese Podengos in the Sighthound stream did not receive enough support to pass.

Section 6 – Lure Coursing Sanctioned Event Requirements

What has changed?

A number of changes have been made to this section to clarify owner responsibilities to run dogs that are fit and sound, and to empower affiliates and judges to refuse to run dogs that are not fit and sound. These changes include a prohibition against bitches in whelp being trialled, and include a specified post-partum rest period. This section also clarifies what kinds of restraint devices are allowable on the field and brings the sport into line with other dog sports by requiring titles to be applied for before dogs are eligible to compete in higher classes.

Why has it changed?

These changes were put in place to address concerns about dogs in unsuitable condition being trialled and improper use of collars and other devices. The provision requiring triallers to apply for titles before moving up a class was put in place to bring the sport into line with other dog sports, make the work of Secretaries easier, and to ensure that Member Bodies are not deprived of revenue.

Section 7 – Excusals, Dismissals and Disqualifications

What has changed?

A number of changes have been made to clarify what constitutes an excusal, dismissal and disqualification and what the consequences of these decisions are.

Why has it changed?

Changes were made to streamline the content and improve trialler understanding of the provisions.

Section 8 – Lure Coursing Titles and Awards

What has changed?

There are two new titles, one for Sighthounds and one for the CA stream.

- The new Sighthound title is the Senior Courser title, which is available to dogs who pass any Sighthound class 6 times under 4 different judges (or judging combinations) on at least two different fields.
- The new CA title is the Coursing Ability Master title, which is for dogs who have achieved the CAX title, and who pass 8 times under 4 different judges (or judging combinations) on at least two different fields.

The scoring and title requirements for the Open and Veterans scheme have changed significantly. If you compete in these streams you will need to read these provisions very carefully. More points are required now to become a Field Champion (100 points) or Veteran Field Champion (75 points) but more points are available both at Breed level, and through the award of an official Best in Field on points. This system operates in a very similar fashion to conformation showing points allocation. Points you have already accrued in these streams prior to 1 January 2020 can be put towards future titles.

Why has it changed?

The Senior Courser title was added for those Sighthounds who may never reach Field Champion status but who enjoy competing to provide a title between the entry level JC and the Field Champion titles.

The Coursing Ability Masters title was added after a motion to create a CA Champion title did not receive enough support to pass. This award provides a top award for CA triallers to aspire to.

The changes to the Open and Veterans scoring and title stream were the result of significant discussion and compromise in Committee to bring together diverse state proposals for these streams.

Section 9 – Officials

What has changed?

These provisions have been streamlined significantly to remove material that is normally governed by state and territory member body rules about the running of events. There are also points of clarification in each role, for example, more detailed information about release requirements in the Huntmaster role. If you perform any official role you will need to study this section carefully. Finally, judges have been added as an official.

Why has it changed?

These changes were made to clarify official roles and to avoid creating administrative difficulties for officials by having material in the national Rule Book that is generally covered by State and Territory regulation.

Section 10 – Conduct of the Open/Veteran Stakes

What has changed?

This section has been re-titled so it's clear it only applies to Open/Veteran/FCh/vFCh stakes. Changes have been made to requirements for blankets, and requirements for drawing dogs. Trial Secretaries and Judges will need to closely review these changes.

Why has it changed?

The changes for blankets were made to ensure that blankets did not become a distraction or a means of identifying specific dogs. The changes for draws were put in place to prevent manipulation of stake allocations in the Open and Veteran stream.

Section 11– Judging

What has changed?

A number of small but important clarifications have been made to the judging section. For example, the section about judges not talking on the field has been clarified to apply only to discussion of scores or placements, to allow judges to discuss how to deal with no courses or on field incidents. All judges should closely review this section.

Why has it changed?

Changes have been made in this section to reflect changes to the title streams and other provisions elsewhere in the rules.

Section 12– Glossary

What has changed?

Definitions for Blanket, Combination of Judges, Course, Course Delay, Disqualification, Fail to Run, Draw, Pre-Slip, Sanctioned Event, Slip and Trial Precinct have been either added or changed.

Why has it changed?

Changes have been made in this section to reflect changes in the rules and improve the administration of the rules.

Transitional Advice

- The rules now require that you must apply for each title before moving up to the next title. This means that if you want to apply for a higher title, your member body must have processed the pre-requisite titles for your dog.

- Existing passes and points can be used towards future titles, bearing in mind the pre-requisite title requirement. This means that if you have enough passes for a SC or CAM award, and you have the prerequisite title/s you can apply for them once the new rules are in effect - that is, after 1 January 2020
- The new Open/Veterans stream scoring system cannot be applied retrospectively. This means that your dog keeps the points they have already earned, but those qualifications don't get translated into the new points scheme. So, if Ch Fast Fifi ended the year on 43 points, she must now get an additional 57 points under the new points scheme to get her Field Champion title. Fifi's owner cannot go back and "translate" the 43 points under the old scheme into the points application under the new scheme.

Questions?

Ask your Representative on the Lure Coursing Committee. To get contact details for your Representative, contact your Member Body during business hours.